Standard of school education

†*384. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that standard of school education in various parts of the country is deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any steps for improving the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) "Education" is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, and management and academic arrangements in schools are primarily the concern of State/UT Governments. Information is received from time-to-time that quality of education is deteriorating at some places. National Policy of Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) has laid special emphasis on quality of education. In pursuance of the policy, the Central Government has been emphasizing the need to constantly improve the quality of education.

A number of schemes are being implemented for improving quality of primary/elementary education in cooperation with the State/UT Governments. District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) is a holistic programme for development of primary education. The programme at present covers 273 districts in 18 States. The project provides several interventions for quality improvement. These inter-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ventions include textbooks development, teacher training, capacity building, supply of teaching learning materials, appointment of additional teachers, improvement in the school environment etc. In all the DPEP States, new textbooks have been developed and several rounds of improved teacher training have been conducted. New institutions of Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres have been established to provide academic resource support at sub-district levels. A joint Government of India — United Nations programme namely, Jan Shala is being implemented in 105 blocks in 9 States. It is a community-based programme, which aims at improving the quality of primary education.

A new scheme of *Sarva Shikha Abhiyan* has been launched with the objective of providing quality elementary education to all the children in 6—14 age group by 2010. District Elementary Education Plans have been sanctioned under the scheme for 512 districts for the year 2001-2002. The scheme of Restructuring and Reorganisation of Teacher Education is being implemented to create a viable institutional infrastructure, academic and technical resource base for orientation, training and continuous up gradation of knowledge, competence and pedagogical skills of school teachers in the country. So far, 470 District Institutes of Educational Training have been sanctioned and more than 16 lakhs teachers trained under this scheme.

In the field of Secondary Education, a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS), Improvement of Science Education in Schools, Environmental Orientation to School Education etc. are being implemented for improving the quality of education.